

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A DVD based learning system comprising:
2 a first device comprising a DVD drive; and
3 a remote control comprising controls and a microphone,
4 the first device operable to display words in a first language upon a display, and to
5 playback a pre-recorded rendition of the one or more words,
6 the remote control operable to receive a users spoken rendition of the one or more
7 displayed words and transmit said spoken rendition to the first device,
8 the first device operable to reproduce said spoken rendition.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is further operable to reproduce said
2 spoken rendition simultaneously with said pre-recorded rendition.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is further operable to reproduce said
2 spoken rendition and said user rendition sequentially.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is operable to receive and record speech
2 from the user.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the user can repeat her spoken and recorded rendition
2 multiple times until satisfied with her rendition.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the user can select additional words to practice with
2 the remote control.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the first device can display the words in the first
2 language and additional languages simultaneously.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein one of the additional languages is a user's
2 preferred language.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the microphone is activated by one of the
2 controls of the remote control.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the microphone is voice activated.

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote control is child sized, having a
2 pear-like shape with a distal lobe and a proximal lobe, the proximal lobe sized to fit in the
3 palm of a child's hand, and having a width larger than the width of the distal lobe.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the proximal lobe is about 60 millimeters
2 wide, and wherein the remote is about 120 millimeters long.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote is operable to directly transmit said
2 spoken rendition to the first device while held in an upright position.

1 14. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes a button that
2 causes, with one touch, the dictionary meaning of one or more displayed words to appear
3 on the display.

1 15. A method for teaching and learning a foreign language lesson, the method
2 comprising:

3 displaying at least one word in a foreign language upon an electronic display
4 with a first device;

5 reproducing said at least one word over a speaker;

6 receiving, at a remote control, a student's spoken version of the at least one
7 displayed word;

8 transmitting from said remote control, to said first device, the spoken version;

9 and

10 reproducing said spoken version at said first device, through said speaker.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising recording said spoken version for
2 playback when requested.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein reproducing said spoken version is done in
2 real time.

1 18. The method of claim 15 wherein a portion of the foreign language lesson is
2 stored on a DVD.

1 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising producing a spoken reference
2 version of said at least one word when displaying said at least one word.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said spoken reference version is that of a
2 native speaker of the foreign language.

1 21. A system for teaching a student a foreign language comprising;

2 providing foreign language content on an optical disc at a first device;

3 causing words in the foreign language to appear upon a display;

4 providing a reference-spoken version of the displayed words;

5 receiving, at a microphone provided in a remote control, the students spoken
6 version of the displayed words while the words appear on the display;

7 modulating said spoken version into a signal at the remote control;

8 transmitting the modulated signal to the first device; and

9 demodulating the signal at the first device and, upon receipt of a command
10 from the student, playing back the spoken version at the first device.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein the remote control is child sized, having a
2 pear-like shape with a distal lobe and a proximal lobe, the proximal lobe sized to fit in the
3 palm of a child's hand, and having a width larger than the width of the distal lobe.

1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein the proximal lobe is about 60 millimeters
2 wide, and wherein the remote is about 120 millimeters long.

1 24. The system of claim 21 wherein the student triggers the remote to receive the
2 student's spoken words by pressing a button of the remote control.

1 25. The system of claim 21 wherein the students voice triggers the remote control
2 to receive the spoken words.

1 26. A remote control for use with a language learning system, the remote:

2 having a pear like shape, with two lobes, a lobe proximal to the user, and a
3 lobe distal to the user, the distal lobe comprising an infrared transducer, the proximal lobe
4 larger than the distal lobe, the remote also comprising a microphone;

5 operable to cause the language learning system to display a group of words to
6 be learned by an operator of the remote and the system; and

7 operable to cause the language learning system to sonically reproduce a
8 reference pronunciation of the displayed words,

9 the microphone of the remote operable to receive the operators spoken
10 version of the displayed words and to transmit a signal representing said spoken words to
11 the language learning system, the system operable to amplify and reproduce said signal,
12 thus allowing the operator to compare his spoken version to the reference version.

1 27. The remote control of claim 26 wherein the remote control is child-sized.

1 28. The remote control of claim 27 wherein the remote control has a maximum
2 width of about 60 millimeters.

1 29. A remote control comprising:

2 a top side including a microphone and keys that control a distant device; and

3 an underside including a grouping of transducers that transmit control signals
4 and sound received by the microphone to the distant device,

5 the group of transducers arranged so that a beam pattern formed by the group
6 of transducers is such that the remote can be held substantially upright or substantially
7 horizontally and transmit the control signals and sound directly to the distant device in
8 either position.